

Socioeconomic Conditions Along the Trails

LANDOWNERSHIP AND USE

The Oregon, California, Pony Express and Mormon Pioneer Trails cover approximately 14,000 miles and cross 13 states, 150 counties and hundreds of communities ranging from metropolitan areas to villages, farms and ranches. The trails also pass through, or are adjacent to, federal lands under a variety of jurisdictions, including Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Defense.

The information on landownership and use presented in tables 13 through 16 comes from the 1987 *Feasibility Study* and is provided as a general reference. Route data from the GIS mapping effort associated with this project show that much of the information available is incomplete. Similar data for the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails from the 1981 plans is not provided in this document, because it also needs to be updated.

Table 13: Landownership and Use Along the California National Historic Trail (in miles)

	Federal Lands			Nonfederal Lands			Total
	BLM	FS	Other	Indian	State	Private	
Missouri & Kansas	—	—	—	—	5	128	133
Nebraska	—	—	?	—	327	740	1,067
Wyoming	556	31	?	—	94	407	1,088
Idaho	58	35	?	65	82	217	457
Utah	111	4	—	—	124	110	349
Nevada	691	2	—	—	117	268	1,136
California	63	416	—	6	155	354	994
Oregon	55	—	—	—	194	112	361
Total	1,534	488	80*	71	1,158	2,336	5,665
Percent of Total	27.1%	8.6%	1.4%	1.3%	20.4%	41.2%	100%

*Includes Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Defense, and other miscellaneous federal lands



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Using data from the feasibility study, approximately 1,202 miles (28%) of the 5,665-mile network of routes are on federal lands. The Bureau of Land Management manages 1,534 miles (27%) of the trail system, which represents the majority of the federal lands. The Forest Service manages 488 miles (8.6%), primarily in California. Other federal agencies manage 80 miles, including portions now flooded by federal impoundment projects.

States and their political subdivisions administer 1,158 miles (20.4%) of the trail system. Most of this mileage is within rights-of-way of state- and county-owned roads and highways.

Private ownership totals 2,336 miles (41.2%). The routes also cross Indian reservations for 71 miles.

Table 13 summarizes landownership along the California Trail, including the alternate routes and cutoffs identified in the 1987 *Feasibility Study*.

Major land uses along the trail route include grazing, agriculture, forestry, and urban development. Table 14 categorizes use by state for the entire route. The most prominent use is rangeland in Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, and Nevada, whereas agriculture is the major land use along the route in Nebraska, Kansas, California, and Oregon. In California and Oregon the route also traverses extensive tracts of forest land. Urban areas comprise a relatively small proportion of the route and include St. Joseph, Omaha, Salt Lake City, Reno, Sacramento, and Eugene.



PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

For 698 miles (38%), the Pony Express National Historic Trail is in private ownership. The route crosses Indian lands for 12 miles (1%) in eastern Nevada. The remaining 1,145 miles (61.7%) are on land owned either by federal, state, or local governments (see table 15).

Of the 729 miles (39.3%) that are federally owned, the Bureau of Land Management manages 650 miles (35%). The Forest Service manages lands along 75 miles (4%), most of which are in California. Other miscellaneous federal agencies account for about 4 miles. States and their political subdivisions administer 416 miles (22%) of the

Table 14: Land Uses Along the California National Historic Trail (in miles)

	Agriculture	Forest Land	Rangeland	Urban Development	Ungrazed (Desert Shrubland)
Missouri & Kansas	122	—	—	10	—
Nebraska	648	16	193	90	—
Wyoming	220	72	730	62	—
Idaho	148	62	210	34	—
Utah	103	25	107	65	46
Nevada	95	28	750	85	148
California	303	425	100	128	—
Oregon	123	135	40	64	—
Total	1,762	763	2,130	538	194

trail, the majority being owned where the trail lies within rights-of-way of state-and county-owned roads and highways.

Major land uses along the trail include rangeland, agriculture, forests, urban development, and desert (see table 16). Rangeland is the dominant use (49%) along the route, followed by agriculture (29%) and combinations of other land uses.

Population

The Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails traverse 150 counties (see table 17 for a list of the counties for each trail). The trails cross some of the most rural, unpopulated areas of the United States, but they are also near the most urbanized areas in the United States, such as Kansas City,

Omaha, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and others. Close to 13 million people (12,777,200) are listed in the 1994 census as living in the counties crossed by the trails.

There is great variability among the states and the counties and summary statistics do not always reflect local conditions. The national population growth average was slightly under one percent per year. Counties traversed by the trails in four states experienced population losses, from a high of -1.2% per year for Sedgwick County, Colorado to -0.7 for Illinois, -0.5% for Iowa and -0.3% for Wyoming. While Missouri’s growth rate was flat, some states, such as Nebraska, Washington and Oregon experienced moderate growth rates (0.3, 0.3, and 0.8, respectively). Kansas and Idaho were slightly above the national average with 1.1% and 1.4%. Utah, California, and Nevada underwent the most dramatic growth with averages of 2.0, 2.3, and 3.5 % per year (see table 18 for average population growth rates for the counties crossed by the trails).

Table 15: Landownership and Use Along the Pony Express National Historic Trail (in miles)

	Federal Lands			Nonfederal Lands			Total
	BLM	FS	Other	Indian	State	Private	
Missouri & Kansas	—	—	—	—	5	127	132
Nebraska	—	—	?	—	131	313	444
Colorado	—	—	?	—	—	16	16
Wyoming	213	—	?	—	70	170	453
Utah	142	1	—	—	71	36	244
Nevada	305	18	—	12	58	16	409
California	—	56	—	—	81	20	157
Total	650	75	4*	12	416	698	1,855
Percent of Total	35%	4%	0%	1%	22%	38%	100%

*Includes Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Defense, and other miscellaneous federal lands

INCOME

The combined income for the people living in counties through which the trails pass has grown dramatically in the last 15 years. In 1980, it was close to 75 billion dollars. By 1994 it had reached 190 billion dollars, a growth of 10.2% per year — almost twice the national average of 5.5% per year.

There is great variability among the states and their counties, but in general growth in per capita income greatly exceeds the national average. All states crossed by the trails, with the exception of Wyoming and Washington surpassed that growth rate (see table 19). As in the case of population figures, there is a great deal of variability, and summary statistics do not always provide a good assessment of overall conditions in certain states.

Socioeconomic Conditions Within Affected States

MISSOURI

In 1980 Missouri had a population of 4,923,300. By 1994 it had grown 6.3% to 5,235,100 (16th in the nation). Trail segments cross only two of the 115 Missouri counties — Buchanan and Jackson (see table 17). In 1994 these two counties had a combined population of 717,700, almost no change since 1980 when they combined for 717,400 people (see table 18).

In 1994 the state’s average per capita personal income was \$19,557, compared to the national average of \$21,696. Growth in per capita personal income averaged 5.4% annually between 1980 and 1994, nearly the same as the national average, but the two counties crossed

by the trail did substantially better with an average growth of 7.4% (see table 19).

In 1994 total personal income in Missouri exceeded \$102.4 billion and accounted for 1.9% of the nation’s total personal income (17th in the nation).

Earnings increased from nearly \$41.0 billion in 1980 to about \$73.8 billion in 1994, an average annual growth rate of 6.1%. In 1994 the largest economic sectors in terms of earnings were services (25.6%), durable goods manufacturing (11.3%), state and local government (10.0%), and retail trade (9.9%).

ILLINOIS

In 1980 Illinois had a population of 11,441,700. By 1994 it had grown 2.7% to 11,751,700 (6th in the nation). The Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail begins in Hancock county, one of Illinois 102 counties. In 1994 Hancock county had a population of 21,400, a decline of 10.4% from 1980 (see table 18).

In 1994 the per capita income in the state was \$23,611 (10th in the nation) and above the national average. The state’s total personal income was over 277 million (5th in the nation) and it accounted for almost 5 % of the nation’s total. It reflected an annual growth of close to 7% since 1980. Per capita income in Hancock county between 1980 and 1994 grew 7.9%, well above the national average of 5.5% (see table 19).

In 1994 the largest economic sectors in term of earnings were services, durable goods, manufacturing, and state and local government.

IOWA

In 1980, 2,916,000 people lived in Iowa. By 1994 the state’s population had declined by 3.2% to 2,821,300 (30th in the nation). During this 15-year time period, the country as a whole experienced a 13.4% growth in population. Portions of the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail are found in 11 of Iowa’s 99 counties (see table 17). These 11 counties had a combined 1994 population of 211,400, which represents an average decline of -.5% per year (see table 18).

In 1994 total personal income in Iowa exceeded \$51.6 billion and accounted for 1.0% of the nation’s total personal income (30th in the nation).

Earnings increased from \$20.3 billion in 1980 to \$35.7 billion in 1994 an average annual growth rate of 5.8%. In 1994 the largest eco-

Table 16: Land Uses Along the Pony Express National Historic Trail (in miles)

	Agriculture	Forest Land	Rangeland	Urban Development	Ungrazed (Desert Shrubland)
Missouri & Kansas	122	—	—	10	—
Nebraska	314	8	88	34	—
Colorado	16	—	—	—	—
Wyoming	68	6	357	22	—
Utah	15	34	157	38	—
Nevada	—	8	357	24	20
California	—	77	10	70	—
Total	535	133	905	198	84

conomic sectors in terms of earnings were services (22.0%), state and local government (14.1%), durable goods manufacturing (13.5%), and retail trade (10.5%).

KANSAS

In 1980 Kansas had a population of 2,370,300. By 1994 it had grown by 7.0% to 2,535,100 (32rd in the nation). Trail segments are in 14 of the 105 Kansas counties (see table 17 for a list of these counties). In 1994, these counties had a combined population of 979,800 and experienced an average growth of 1.1% per year since 1980 (see table 18).

In 1994 Kansas had a per capita personal income of \$19,489. This figure was 90% of the national average per capita personal income of \$21,696 (22th in the nation). Between 1980 and 1994 growth in the state’s per capita personal income averaged 5.0% annually 0.5% below the national average. However, the 14 counties crossed by the trails experienced substantial growth (8.7%) in per capita personal income (see table 19).

In 1994 total personal income in Kansas exceeded \$50.3 billion and accounted for 0.9% of the nation’s total personal income (31st in the nation).

Earnings by employed persons increased from approximately \$19.9 billion in 1980 to nearly \$35.2 billion in 1994, an average annual growth rate of 5.9%. In 1994 the largest economic sectors in terms of earnings were services (22.2%), state and local government (12.9%), durable goods manufacturing (11.1%), and retail trade (10.0%).

NEBRASKA

In 1980 Nebraska had a population of 1,573,100. By 1994 it had grown by 2.6% to 1,613,300 (37th in the nation). Portions of the four trails cross 35 of Nebraska’s 93 counties (see table 17 for a list of these counties). These 35 counties had a combined 1994 population of 1,175,500, close to 73% of the total population of the state and experienced an average growth of .3% per year since 1980 (see table 18).

Nebraska’s 1994 per capita personal income was \$19,672. Growth in per capita personal income averaged 5.8% annually between 1980 and 1994. This rate was only slightly higher than the national average of 5.5 %. The 35 Nebraska counties crossed by the trails combined for 41% of the state’s total personal income. They experienced an increase of 9% in per capita personal income, the highest among all the states affected (see table 19).

Employment earnings increased from approximately \$12.5 billion in 1980 to more than \$23.3 billion in 1994 an average annual growth rate of 6.5%. In 1994 the largest economic sectors in terms of earnings were services (22.2%), state and local government (13.3%), retail trade (9.3%), and transportation and public utilities (8.6%).

COLORADO

In 1980 the population of Colorado was 2,909,700. By 1994 it had grown by 22.5% to 3,563,600 (26th in the nation). Most of this growth occurred in urban areas and along the front range of the Rocky Mountains. Only Sedgwick County, in the northeasternmost corner of the state, is crossed by the trails. This predominantly rural county had a 1994 population of 2,700, an 18% decline from 1980 (see table 18).

In 1994 the per capita personal income in Colorado was \$21,498. This figure was 103% of the national average per capita personal income of \$21,696 (16th in the nation). In Colorado the annual growth in per capita personal income averaged 4.9% between 1980 and 1994. This growth rate was nearly 11% below the national average of 5.5% during the same time period. Sedgwick County, however, averaged a 6% growth per year during the same period (see table 19).

In 1994, total personal income in Colorado was nearly \$76.6 billion and accounted for 1.4% of the nation’s total personal income (22nd in the nation).

Employment earnings increased from about \$31.5 billion in 1980 to more than \$57.7 billion in 1994, an average annual growth rate of 6.3%. In 1994, the largest economic sectors in terms of earnings were services (27.5%), state and local government (11.2%), retail trade (9.9%), and transportation and public utilities (8.5%).

WYOMING

In 1980 the population of Wyoming was 474,600. By 1994 it had declined by 1.0% to 469,700 and was the least populous state in the nation. Several trail segments pass through nine of Wyoming’s 23 counties (see table 17 for a list of these counties). These nine counties

had a combined 1994 population of 212,500, an average loss of .3% per year since 1980 (see table 18).

Wyoming’s 1994 average per capita personal income was \$19,719. This figure was 91% of the national average (24th in the nation). Between 1980 and 1994 Wyoming’s average per capita personal income grew 4.9% annually, below the national average of 5.5%. The nine counties crossed by the trails grew at the same rate as the rest of the state (see table 19) and had an average per capita income of \$18,404, substantially below the nation’s average of \$21,696.

Wyoming’s 1994 total personal income exceeded \$9.3 billion and accounted for only 0.2% of the nation’s total personal income (50th in the nation).

Earnings by employed persons increased from approximately \$4.7 billion in 1980 to more than \$6.4 billion in 1994, an average annual growth rate of 3.2%. In 1994 the largest economic sectors in terms of earnings were services (17.1%), state and local government (17.0%), and mining (16.9%).

IDAHO

In 1980 the population of Idaho was 948,600. By 1994 it had grown to 1,100,400. Although the state’s population growth was nearly 16.0% more than the national average, Idaho’s 1994 population only ranked 42nd in the nation. Parts of several of the historic trails pass through 14 of the state’s 44 counties (see table 17 for a list of these counties). These 14 counties had a combined population of 618,600 in 1994, over 54% of the state’s population. They experienced an average growth of 1.4% per year since 1980 (see table 18).

The per capita personal income for Idaho in 1994 was \$17,512. This figure was 81% of the national average (39th in the nation). Growth in per capita personal income averaged 5.7% (slightly higher than the national average) between 1980 and 1994. The counties crossed by the trails, however, experienced a healthy 6.9% in per capita personal income (see table 19); however, their average per capita income was \$16,062, substantially below the nation’s average of \$21,696.

In 1994 total personal income in Idaho exceeded \$19.3 billion and accounted for only 0.4% of the nation’s total personal income (43rd in the nation).

Earnings by employed persons increased from approximately \$7.0 billion in 1980 to nearly \$14.3 billion in 1994, an average annual growth rate of 7.3%. In 1994 the largest economic sectors in terms of earnings were services (20.4%), durable goods manufacturing

(12.8%), state and local government (11.8%), and retail trade (10.6%).

OREGON

In 1980 the population of Oregon was 2,641,500. By 1994 it had grown to 3,086,200 (29th in the nation). Oregon’s population growth was 16.8%. Segments of historic trails are in 18 of Oregon’s 36 counties (see table 17 for a list of these counties). In 1994 these counties had 60.2% (1,926,300) of the state’s population. They had experienced an average growth of .8% per year since 1980 (see table 18).

Oregon’s per capita income in 1994 was \$20,471 (27th in the nation) and slightly below the national average of \$21,696. The state’s total personal income was over 63 billion and it accounted for 1.1% of the nation’s total. It reflected an average annual growth rate of 9.5% since 1980. In 1994 the largest economic sectors in terms of earnings were services, manufacturing, retail trade, and state and local government. The 18 counties crossed by the California and Oregon Trails account for over 51% of the total personal income in the state. They experienced an average growth in per capita personal income of 5.5%, the same as the national average (see table 19).

WASHINGTON

In 1980 the population of Washington was 4,132,000. By 1994 it had grown to 5,343,200 (15th in the nation), a growth rate of 29%. The Oregon trail crosses Walla Walla, one of Washington’s 39 counties. In 1994 this county had 52,600 people (roughly 1% of the state’s population), but had grown almost 12% since 1980 (see table 18).

Washington’s per capita income in 1994 was \$22,526 (13th in the nation) and above the national average of \$21,696. The state’s total personal income was over 120 billion and it accounted for 2.1% of the nation’s total. It reflected an average annual growth rate of 5.1% since 1980. In 1994 the largest economic sectors in terms of earnings were services, manufacturing, retail trade, and state and local government.

Per capital personal income in Walla Walla grew at a slightly lower rate than the rest of the state. Between 1980 and 1994 it went from \$10,328 to \$17,360, an annual growth rate of 4.5%. While farm earnings have declined since 1980, tourism in Walla Walla continues to grow steadily at over 15% per year.

UTAH

Utah is another western state that experienced above average population growth. The state grew by 26.3% in 14 years. In 1980 the population of Utah was 1,472,600. By 1994 it was 1,908,000 (34th in the nation). Segments of the historic trails are in 10 of Utah’s 29 counties (see table 17 for list of these counties). These 10 counties contained 1,435,700 persons in 1994 — three-quarters of the state’s population. They grew an average of 2% per year since 1980 (see table 18).

Utah’s per capita personal income in 1994 was \$16,136. Growth in per capita personal income averaged 5.4% per year between 1980 and 1994. This rate was just slightly below the national average. In 1994 the counties crossed by the trails had an average per capita income of \$17,065, more than \$4,000 dollars below the national average, but grew at a healthy 7.6% per year.

In 1994 total personal income was nearly \$30.0 billion and accounted for 0.6% of the nation’s total personal income (36th in the nation).

Employment earnings increased from about \$11.7 billion in 1980 to nearly \$23.3 billion in 1994, an average annual growth rate of 7.1%. In 1994, the largest economic sectors in terms of earnings were services (26.9%), state and local government (12.2%), and durable goods manufacturing (11.0%).

NEVADA

Nevada experienced the highest rate of population growth (70.6%) of any of the states affected by this plan. Nevada’s population jumped from 809,900 in 1980 to 1,382,000 in 1994 (38th in the nation). Parts of several of the historic trails are found in 12 of Nevada’s 17 counties (see table 17 for a list of these counties). In 1994 the combined population of these counties was 486,200, 35 % of the state’s total population. They had grown an average of 3.5% a year since 1980 (see table 18).

In 1994 Nevada’s per capita personal income was, 110% of the national average (9th in the nation). Growth in per capita personal income averaged 5.7% annually between 1980 and 1994, a rate of growth was slightly higher than the national average. The 12 counties crossed by these trails had an average per capita income of \$22,191. They grew at a rate of 6.8% per year, substantially higher than the national average (see table 19).

In 1994 total personal income in Nevada exceeded \$31.6 billion and accounted for 0.6% of the nation’s total personal income (40th in the nation).

Table 18: Average Population Growth Rates for Counties Crossed by National Historic Trails Between 1980 and 1994

State	Average Growth Rate per Year (%)
Nevada (12)	3.5%
California (22)	2.3%
Utah (10)	2.0%
Idaho (14)	1.4%
Kansas (14)	1.1%
Oregon (18)	0.8%
Nebraska (35)	0.3%
Washington (1)	0.3%
Missouri (2)	0%
Wyoming (9)	-0.3%
Iowa (11)	-0.5%
Illinois (1)	-0.7%
Colorado (1)	-1.2%

Note: number of counties affected shown in parenthesis

Table 19: Average Per Capita Income Per County Crossed by the Trails

State	Average Growth Rate per Year (%)		
	1980 PCP	1994 PCP	Average Percentage in Growth per Year
Nebraska (35)	8,394	19,688	9.0
Kansas (14)	8,375	19,262	8.7
Iowa (11)	7,728	16,878	7.9
Illinois (1)	8,226	17,829	7.8
Utah (10)	7,957	17,066	7.6
Missouri (2)	9,592	20,210	7.4
Idaho (14)	7,889	16,062	6.9
Nevada (12)	10,990	22,192	6.8
California (22)	9,925	19,294	6.3
Colorado (1)	13,972	26,523	6.0
Oregon (18)	10,089	18,354	5.5
Wyoming (9)	9,544	16,563	4.9
Washington (1)	10,328	17,360	4.5

Earnings increased from approximately \$9.0 billion in 1980 to more than \$23.7 billion in 1994, an average annual growth rate of 10.2%. In 1994 the largest economic sectors in terms of earnings were services (45.9%), state and local government (10.3%), and retail trade (9.4%).

CALIFORNIA

In 1980 the population of California was 23,796,800. By 1994 it had grown 31.2% to 31,216,900 (1st in the nation). California’s population growth rate was more than double the national average of 13.4% during this time period. The trails corridor passes through 22 of California’s 58 counties (see table 17 for a list of these counties). The combined population of these 22 counties was 4,929,800, with Sacramento and Alameda Counties having more than 1 million residents each, for near 16% of the total population in the state. These counties experienced a healthy 2.3% average growth between 1980 and 1994 (see table 18).

In 1994 California’s per capita personal income was \$21,895. Growth in per capita personal income averaged 4.5% annually between 1980 and 1994. This rate of growth was noticeably lower than the national average. The 22 counties crossed by the trails, however, had an average per capita income of \$19,294, which is substantially below the nation’s average of \$21,696. However, their per capita personal income grew at a strong annual rate of 6.3% (see table 19).

In 1994 total personal income in California exceeded \$683.5 billion and accounted for 12.7% of the national total (1st in the nation). Between 1980 and 1994, total personal income in California grew at an annual rate of 6.7%, slightly higher than the national average of 6.5%.

Employment earnings increased from approximately \$259.3 billion in 1980 to nearly \$500.9 billion in 1994, an average annual growth rate of 6.8%. In 1994 the largest economic sectors in terms of earnings were services (31.2%), state and local government (11.8%), and durable goods manufacturing (10.4%).